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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,277	07/08/2003	Thomas R. Bednar	BUR920020092US1	1276
30449	7590	09/22/2004	EXAMINER	
SCHMEISER, OLSEN + WATTS			TAT, BINH C	
SUITE 201			ART UNIT	
3 LEAR JET			PAPER NUMBER	
LATHAM, NY 12033			2825	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/604,277

Applicant(s)

BEDNAR ET AL.

Examiner

Binh C. Tat

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 2825

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application 10/604277 filed on 07/08/03.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

#### *Claim Objections*

Claims 1, 6, 15, 19, and 20 objected to because of the following informalities: the hierarchical is misspelled in the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

#### *Specification*

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract lacks narrative format. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 2825

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buffet et al. (U.S. Patent 6631502).
4. As to claims 1 and 10 Buffet et al. teach an integrated circuit comprising: a first voltage island having a hierarchal structure (see fig 1-4 col 5 line 1-30); and a second voltage island nested within said first voltage island, said second voltage island having the same hierarchal structure as said first voltage island (see fig 1-4 col 5 line 31 to col 6 lines 60).
5. As to claims 2 and 11 Buffet et al. teach wherein each voltage island includes one or more voltage selected from the group consisting of a VDDI power supply, a VDDSS power supply and a VDDN power supply (see fig 1-4 col 5 line 31 to col 6 lines 60).
6. As to claims 3 and 12 Buffet et al. teach wherein VDDI, VDDSS and VDDN power supplies of said second voltage island may be independently coupled to VDDI, VDDSS and VDDN power supplies of said first voltage island or independently coupled to a VDDO power supply of non-voltage island portion of said integrated circuit or independently coupled to one or more external power supplies (see fig 4-6 col 6 lines 9 to col 7 lines 61).
7. As to claims 4 and 13 Buffet et al. teach wherein said hierarchal structure includes a VDDN power supply and voltage shifting means or said VDDN power supply and fencing means or said VDDN power supply and said voltage shifting means and said fencing means (see fig 4-6 col 6 lines 9 to col 7 lines 61).
8. As to claims 5 and 14 Buffet et al. teach wherein said communications means comprises logic latches (see fig 4-6 col 6 lines 9 to col 7 lines 61).
9. As to claims 6 and 15 Buffet et al. teach wherein said hierarchal structure further includes one or wherein said hierarchal more substructures selected from the group consisting of a VDDI

Art Unit: 2825

power distribution network, state saving means, one or more switching elements coupled between said VDDN power supply and said VDDI power distribution network, a VDDSS and one or more voltage buffering circuits (see fig 6-9 col 7 lines 35 to col 8 lines 67).

10. As to claims 7 and 16 Buffet et al. teach wherein said one or more switching elements is selected from the group consisting of hard connections, voltage headers and footers (see fig 6-9 col 7 lines 35 to col 8 lines 67).

11. As to claims 8 and 17 Buffet et al. teach wherein said state saving means includes at least one state saving latch (see fig 6-9 col 7 lines 35 to col 8 lines 67).

12. As to claims 9 and 119 Buffet et al. teach further including a power management State machine, said power management state machine located in a non-voltage island portion of said integrated circuit for controlling said fencing means in said first voltage island or said second voltage island or both said first and said second voltage islands (see fig 4-6 col 6 lines 9 to col 7 lines 61).

13. As to claims 20 Buffet et al. teach wherein said hierarchal structure includes a VDDN power supply and voltage shifting means or said VDDN power supply and fencing means or said VDDN power supply, said voltage shifting means and said fencing means (see fig 4-6 col 6 lines 9 to col 7 lines 61).

### ***Conclusion***

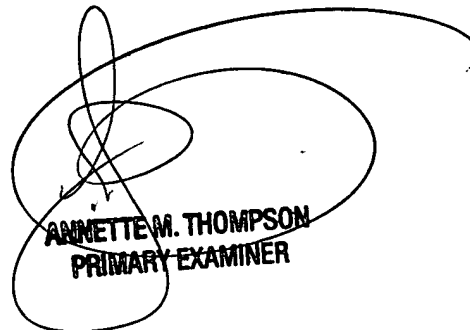
14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh C. Tat whose telephone number is (571) 272-1908. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00 (M-F).

Art Unit: 2825

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-1908 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Binh Tat  
Art unit 2825  
September 17, 2004



ANNETTE M. THOMPSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER